

David Mourns Saul and Jonathan

Army of the Lord and House of Israel

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What We Will Learn

- Mourning and lamentations of David
- For Saul and Jonathan
- Army of the Lord and house of Israel
- Why David mourned
- Spiritual meaning of mourning
- 1 Samuel 31 and 2 Samuel 1

Death of Saul and Jonathan

- Philistines defeated Israel at Mount Gilboa
- Israelites fled and several died
- Philistines killed Jonathan and two brothers
- Saul was critically wounded
- Saul fell on his sword to kill himself
- 1 Samuel 31:1–6

1 Samuel 31 (NIV)

- 1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell slain on Mount Gilboa.
- 2 The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua.
- 3 The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically.
- 4 Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me." But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it.
- 5 When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him.
- 6 So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day.

Burial of Saul and Jonathan

- Israelites abandoned their towns
- Philistines occupied the towns
- Celebrated death of Saul and his sons
- Fastened their bodies to the wall
- People of Gilead recovered bodies at night
- Buried their bones at Jabesh Gilead
- 1 Samuel 31:7–13

1 Samuel 31 (NIV)

7 When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them.

8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

9 They cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and they sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among their people.

10 They put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

1 Samuel 31 (NIV)

11 When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard of what the Philistines had done to Saul,

12 all their valiant men journeyed through the night to Beth Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them.

13 Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

David Informed about Death of Saul and Jonathan

- Man from Saul's camp informed David
- Israeli army was defeated by Philistines
- Israelites fled from the battle
- Many fell and died
- Saul and Jonathan died on Mount Gilboa
- 2 Samuel 1:1–10

2 Samuel 1 (NIV)

1 After the death of Saul, David returned from defeating the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days.

2 On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and with dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor.

3 "Where have you come from?" David asked him. He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp."

4 "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me." He said, "The men fled from the battle. Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead."

5 Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"

2 Samuel 1 (NIV)

6 "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," the young man said, "and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and riders almost upon him.

7 When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, 'What can I do?'

8 "He asked me, 'Who are you?' " 'An Amalekite,' I answered.

9 "Then he said to me, 'Stand over me and kill me! I am in the throes of death, but I'm still alive.'

10 "So I stood over him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord."

David and His Men Mourned

- David and his men tore their clothes
- Mourned for Saul and Jonathan
- Army of the Lord
- And house of Israel
- Executed man that brought news
- Because he said he killed Saul
- 2 Samuel 1:11–16

2 Samuel 1 (NIV)

11 Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them.

12 They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

13 David said to the young man who brought him the report, "Where are you from?" "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite," he answered.

14 David asked him, "Why were you not afraid to lift your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"

15 Then David called one of his men and said, "Go, strike him down!" So he struck him down, and he died.

16 For David had said to him, "Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, 'I killed the LORD's anointed.' "

David's Lamentation for Saul and Jonathan

- David lamented defeat of Israeli army
- 2 Samuel 1:19

19 "Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights. How the mighty have fallen!

- Cautioned Philistines to not celebrate
- 2 Samuel 1:20

20 "Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice.

David's Lamentation for Saul and Jonathan cont'd

- Admonished location where Saul and Jonathan died
- 2 Samuel 1:21

21 "O mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, nor fields that yield offerings [of grain]. For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil.

David's Lamentation for Saul and Jonathan cont'd

- Honored Saul and Jonathan for their life and accomplishments
- 2 Samuel 1:22–23

22 From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied.

23 "Saul and Jonathan— in life they were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

David's Lamentation for Saul and Jonathan cont'd

- Counseled Israelites to mourn for Saul
- 2 Samuel 1:24–25

24 "O daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.

25 "How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

David's Lamentation for Saul and Jonathan cont'd

- Lamented specially for Jonathan
- 2 Samuel 1:26–27

26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.

27 "How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!"

Why David Mourned for Saul

- He was God's anointed king of Israel
- David respected and appreciated Authority and the Throne of Israel
- Because both were established by God
- Romans 13:1

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Why David Mourned for Jonathan

- Admired Jonathan greatly
- For his bravery, faith, and friendship
- Jonathan led Israel to victory over Philistines in battle of Micmash
- In a manner that showed the “hand of God”
- Jonathan made covenant with David
- His close adviser
- And potential 2nd in command

Why David Mourned for Israeli Army

- Defeat meant God had turned away
- David believed Israeli army was invincible
- As the army of the living God
[1 Samuel 17:26 & 45]
- Mourned God's turning away from Israel
- Mourned for the house of Israel for the same reason

Spiritual Meaning of Mourning

- Sadness and regret for sin
- An action that makes God turn away
- Acknowledgment of sin
- Repentance and confession
- Renewed commitment to God
- Ask for forgiveness
- Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted [Matthew 5:4]

What We Learned

- David mourned for Saul: respected and appreciated Saul's authority as king of Israel
- For Jonathan: admired Jonathan and expected to accomplish a lot with him
- For Israeli army: defeat meant God had turned away
- For Israel: believed Israel lost favor with God
- Regretted God turning away and asked for forgiveness